



Veterans Health Administration

Office of Informatics and Analytics



# Do You See a Non-VA Health Care Provider?

## The Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Health Program May Benefit You

VLER Health is a program that shares certain parts of your health record between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Defense (DoD) and selected private health care providers over a secure network known as the Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN). This program is **free** and voluntary.

**How might VLER Health benefit me?** Many Veterans receive a portion of their care from non-VA health care providers. Sharing certain parts of your electronic health record (EHR) will help reduce the need for patients and families to carry records between health care providers. It also will allow your private health care provider to make informed decisions about your care.

**What parts of my record will be shared?** Providers will see a list of your health problems, allergies, medications, vital signs, immunizations, and some laboratory test results. While we cannot share your entire health record, more information will be shared as the program grows, including doctor's notes, discharge summaries, etc.

### What local health care facilities have met VLER Health security requirements and will be sharing health information with VA?

- Brigham City Community Hospital
- Lakeview Hospital
- Mountain View Hospital
- Ogden Regional Medical Center
- St. Marks Hospital
- Timpanogos Regional Hospital
- Davis Hospital & Medical Center
- Jordan Valley Hospital
- Pioneer Valley Hospital
- Salt Lake Regional Medical Center

**When will the VLER Health program be available?** Beginning fall 2011, the sites listed above will be actively exchanging health information for Veterans who have joined the VLER Health program. Additional partnerships are being developed with other Utah healthcare facilities and are anticipated to join in late 2011 or early 2012.

**How do I join?** Simply go to the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System's Internet site to download the authorization forms. We'll need your signature on two authorization forms. Then simply mail or bring the forms to the Library or the Release of Information Office on your next visit to the Salt Lake City VA Medical Center. All the information can be found on our internet page at <http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov/VLERHealth>

**What if I decide not to join?** Participation is entirely voluntary. If you decide not to join, we will not share your health information with your private health care provider. This will not affect your benefits or your relationship with your doctor and/or the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System.

**What if I join and later change my mind?** If you change your mind, visit your local VA health care facility's Release of Information Office or call the toll-free VLER Health Information line at 1-877-771-VLER (8537) to request a form to stop sharing your health information.